

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/646,356

Examiner

John Ruggles

Applicant(s)

GANGULI ET AL.

Art Unit

1756

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the 9/19/05 amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24, 56 and 57.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


John Ruggles
Examiner, Art Unit 1756
571-272-1390

Response to Amendment

In the submission filed on 9/19/05, claims 1-20 and 23-24 remain as originally filed, claims 21-22 have been currently amended, claims 25-55 (which were previously withdrawn as non-elected) have been currently cancelled, and new claims 56-57 have been currently added. Therefore, only claims 1-24 and 56-57 remain under consideration.

Applicants' current amendments to the specification and claims along with the accompanying remarks/arguments on pages 7-15 of 15 have been found persuasive. Therefore, all previous objections and rejections are now withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-24 and 56-57 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the Brandrup et al. reference provided by Applicants is relied upon to support the definition and corresponding units for the gas permeability of the porous frame in the photomask assembly recited by instant claim 1. While teaching some aspects of the instant claims, the prior art does not specifically teach all the limitations of instant claim 1.

In particular, the prior art does not teach a photomask assembly comprising a photomask substrate, a porous frame, and a pellicle, wherein the porous frame has a gas permeability to oxygen or nitrogen higher than about $10 \text{ ml} \cdot \text{mm}/(\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{min} \cdot \text{MPa})$, an average pore size between 0.001 micrometer and 10 micrometers, and a coefficient of thermal expansion between 0.01 ppm/°C and 10 ppm/°C (as recited by instant claim 1). Therefore, instant claim 1 is

Art Unit: 1756

allowable over the prior art and instant claims 2-24 and 56-57 are also allowable over the prior art due to their dependence on instant claim 1.

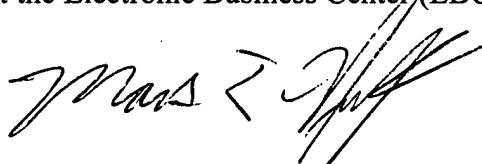
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

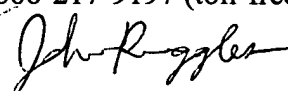
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Ruggles whose telephone number is 571-272-1390. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Huff can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MARK F. HUFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700


John Ruggles
Examiner
Art Unit 1756